



News

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NeXT INTRODUCES NEW VERSION OF NeXTstep SOFTWARE, 25 MIPS "TURBO" HARDWARE MACHINES

SAN FRANCISCO, January 22, 1992 — At the first NeXTWORLD Expo, NeXT Computer, Inc. today announced an important new release of its NeXTstep object-oriented system software, plus faster and less expensive NeXT hardware. NeXTWORLD Expo, a conference and exposition devoted exclusively to NeXT products and technology, is being held at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium (Brooks Hall) through January 24.

A new version of NeXTstep 3.0, designed to run on computers powered by Intel's 80486 processor, was also unveiled. NeXTstep 486 will offer the same features as NeXTstep running on NeXT workstations, and will dramatically expand the potential number of NeXTstep users. (Please refer to separate press release for details.)

NeXTstep Release 3.0 builds on the unquestioned industry leadership of NeXTstep, the only object-oriented system software currently shipping. Release 3.0 adds to the power and ease of use of its predecessors to provide important new benefits for users, corporate and commercial application developers, work groups and system administrators. For example, Release 3.0 features additional connectivity software, tools for developing custom applications for databases and three-dimensional graphics, enhancements to NeXT's interpersonal computing capabilities, integrated foreign language support and an integrated help system. (Please refer to the separate document titled "NeXTstep Release 3.0" for details.)

NeXT also announced faster, "Turbo" versions of the NeXTstation,

NeXTstation Color, NeXTcube and NeXTdimension systems, built around the Motorola 68040 processor running at 33 megahertz (MHz) and with two newly designed NeXT custom chips. These faster machines give NeXT dramatic price/performance advantages compared to workstations from its nearest competitor, Sun Microsystems. Previous NeXT workstations were based on the 25 MHz version of the 68040.

The new Turbo machines are rated at 25 MIPS (million instructions per second), compared to slightly more than 18 MIPS for the 25 MHz versions. At the same time, NeXT has reduced the prices on its most popular configurations by an average of 10 percent compared to last year's configurations. For example, a NeXTstation with 16 MB of internal memory and a 250 MB hard drive, which previously had a suggested retail price of \$7,495, was reduced to \$6,995 for the NeXTstation Turbo version, at the same time performance was boosted significantly.

NeXT also debuted a 360 dpi, four-color printer that sets a new standard for its combination of color quality and low price point. In addition, the company introduced an external CD-ROM drive. Both these peripherals expand customers' choices for NeXT-labeled hardware products. (Please refer to the separate document titled "NeXT's Professional Workstation Family" for details.)

Price and Availability

NeXTstep Release 3.0 will be available from NeXT in Q2 1992, at which time all NeXT computers will begin shipping with Release 3.0 installed on the hard drive and included on a CD-ROM disk for back-up. Current owners of NeXTstep Release 2.x can upgrade to Release 3.0 on CD-ROM, or to Release 3.0 Essentials (without development tools and some applications) on floppy disk. The upgrade price will be \$295 for registered owners. These upgrades will be available from NeXT resellers and through a variety of service/support centers.

The NeXTstation Turbo and NeXTstation Color Turbo workstations are available immediately directly from NeXT or through NeXT's network of value-added resellers, system integrators, campus resellers and authorized retail outlets. The NeXTcube Turbo will begin shipping in early Q2.

A total of 11 NeXTstation configurations will be offered, including color and monochrome systems, and 25 MHz and 33 MHz versions, with various memory and storage options. Prices begin at \$4,995 for a monochrome NeXTstation (25

MHz) with 8 MB of RAM and a 105 MB hard disk. Prices for NeXTstation Turbo begin at \$5,995 for a monochrome version with 8 MB of RAM and a 250 MB hard disk.

NeXTstation Color prices start at \$7,995 for a 25 MHz version with 16 MB of RAM (NeXTstation Color used to begin at 12 MB RAM) and a 105 MB hard disk. The NeXTstation Color Turbo, with 16 MB of RAM and a 250 MB hard disk, starts at \$8,995.

The NeXTcube Turbo will start at \$10,995 for a monochrome system with 16 MB of RAM and a 400 MB hard disk. The NeXTdimension 32-bit color board for NeXTcube Turbo, with built-in video I/O capability, will carry a list price of \$4,995 (down from \$5,495, with standard memory increased from 8 to 16 MB).

The NeXT Color Printer is priced at \$3,495 and will be available in Q2 of 1992, concurrent with NeXTstep Release 3.0. The NeXT External CD-ROM Drive, which can be shared on a network, is available now for \$895.

NeXT Computer, Inc. designs, manufactures and markets professional workstations based on the pioneering NeXTstep object-oriented system software. NeXT computers are used by medium and large organizations to develop mission-critical custom applications and to run these applications alongside breakthrough productivity applications.

NeXT is headquartered at 900 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, California, 94063. For further information, customers and potential customers are encouraged to call 1-800-TRY-NeXT.